

governments and the private sector to map where broadband is available in rural areas, and conduct outreach to areas where it is still unavailable.

I and my colleague, Senator SALAZAR, have always shared a concern for our rural citizens. I am proud to work with my neighbor to the west on this issue, and I look forward to working with my other colleagues on the Senate Agriculture Committee as we begin work on the 2007 farm bill.

#### OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

Mr. KOHL. Madam President, generation by generation, the face of America is always changing. In the next quarter of a century, the laugh lines of that face will deepen as the number of older Americans explodes. Today, those over 65 account for 12 percent of our population; in 2030, they will account for 20 percent. Academic experts, policy wonks, economists, and health care providers are conjecturing broadly about how this demographic wave will affect our society. As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am listening carefully.

It is the charge of the Aging Committee to plan accordingly for the challenges facing our seniors tomorrow and to tackle the problems confronting them today. Older American Month, which occurs each May, gives us an opportunity to highlight these issues but let me assure you that it is impossible to relegate senior issues into one neat category, and soon it will be impossible to confine our attention to them to just 1 month.

Nearly every issue dealt with by Congress affects older Americans, or is affected by them, in a unique way. From emergency preparedness to broadcast technology, from the size of the labor force to regulation of corporate marketing practices, these issues are worthy of our attention from the older person's perspective. Then there are, of course, the more obvious challenges ahead of us, such as preserving Social Security, strengthening Medicare, and improving long-term care.

In the last 5 months alone, the Aging Committee has held hearings on a myriad of matters that are of vital concern to seniors. We have examined health care coverage for America's poorest seniors under Medicare Part D's low-income subsidy. We heard from the Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve about the impact that millions of retiring baby boomers will have on our Nation's economy, and we learned about how best to retain and cater to the needs of older workers.

We have deliberated on the progress made by the nursing home industry over the last 20 years, as well as what currently needs to be done about the most neglectful, decrepit homes. Our investigative unit has shone a bright light on the shameful, deceptive sales tactics employed by certain providers of private Medicare Advantage plans.

We have put forth compelling evidence for the continuation of

SeniorCare, Wisconsin's highly efficient drug coverage program, in spite of the administration's desire to terminate it. And, I couldn't be more pleased to say, we worked with the rest of the Wisconsin delegation and in collaboration with Governor Jim Doyle to find a legislative fix to save SeniorCare, extending the program through December 31, 2009.

As demonstrated by the work I have described, it is easy to see that protecting seniors—whether from fraud, poverty, or mistreatment—is a priority for the Aging Committee. However, it is also our priority to enable them. Though older Americans are often considered to be a vulnerable segment of the population, in many ways senior citizens strengthen our society. America's seniors have had decades to master skills and garner accomplishments, often rendering them our best leaders and innovators. A lot of them are out in the forefront of professional fields, staying active within community and family life in various capacities, and leading by example.

The aging of America will affect every part of our society, and it will touch every family in decades to come. We reap the benefits of the continued contributions of older Americans, and in return they deserve the best quality of life our Nation can afford them.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING MARK STEPHENS

• Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, as chairman of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee, I would like to recognize a milestone in the career of a dedicated and committed public servant. Mark Stephens, an attorney with the Postal Regulatory Commission's Office of General Counsel, is retiring after a 33-year career. He joined the former Postal Rate Commission in 1974, and participated in the analysis and review of numerous postal rate, classification, and complaint cases.

Mark proudly notes that he started his Federal service career as a letter carrier for the old Post Office Department where he worked for three months during the summer of 1968. During his long tenure with the Commission, Mark also served in the Office of Consumer Advocate.

Mark's colleagues point to his professionalism, analytical and writing ability, and character as the embodiment of the finest qualities of public service. His insights and thoughtful counsel made a substantial contribution to the Commission's successful fulfillment of its statutory responsibilities. Mark has been a valued colleague to those at the Commission and his retirement will leave a void that will be difficult to fill.

Upon leaving the Postal Regulatory Commission, Mark intends to spend more time with his family, but will likely continue to monitor the progress

of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006 which significantly enhanced the authority of the PRC. Mark Stephens is a public servant who made a difference, and I wish him much future success.●

#### CONGRATULATING DETECTIVE STEVEN SILFIES

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I congratulate Detective Steven Silfies of Hopkinsville, KY. Detective Silfies was recently recognized as the "2006 Trooper of the Year" by the Kentucky State Police.

Detective Silfies is a 4-year veteran of the Kentucky State Police Force. He is assigned to Kentucky State Police Post 2 located in Madisonville, KY. Prior to joining the Kentucky State Police, Detective Silfies served more than two decades in the U.S. Army. This includes tours in both Afghanistan and Iraq. He also currently serves as de-facto liaison officer with personnel at Fort Campbell.

Detective Silfies truly exemplifies what it means to serve and protect the citizens of Kentucky. During the past year, Detective Silfies has played an integral role in the investigation of six murders. His devotion has led to two arrests in those investigations. Silfies also has played a prominent role in the solving of several cold cases. These include an arrest in a 27-year-old case of an out-of-State resident. Detective Silfies took a leading role in another cold case involving an out-of-State resident. This was a 13-year-old case in which Silfies uncovered overlooked evidence.

I congratulate Detective Silfies on this achievement. To be singled out among such a dedicated police force is truly an honor. He is an inspiration to the citizens of Kentucky and to dedicated police everywhere. I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish in the future.

#### WOMEN'S TENNIS 2007 CHAMPIONS

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Madam President, today I congratulate the Georgia Tech women's tennis team for winning the 2007 Women's NCAA Tennis Championship in Athens, GA.

The Georgia Tech women's tennis program celebrated its first NCAA title on May 22, 2007, with a 4-2 win over UCLA. The Yellow Jackets' win over UCLA marked its 21st straight match win, and they finished the season at 29-4.

I congratulate team members Amanda Craddock, Kristen Fowler, Whitney McCray, Amanda McDowell, Kirsti Miller, Tarryn Rudman, Alison Silverio, and Christy Striplin for their hard work and achievement. Additionally, I congratulate Alison Silverio on being named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. I further extend my thanks to the players' families and fans for continually supporting these outstanding young women throughout a long but